

The Sun.

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1891.

London Office of THE SUN,
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4, ENGLAND.
All communications should be addressed to FRANK
M. WHITE, City Editor, New York, U.S.A.

Subscription by Mail—Postpaid.
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SUNDAY, Per Year.....\$5.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year.....\$25.00
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THE SUN, New York City.

A Joint Investigation or None.

The Senate will resume to-night consideration of the LAVERGNE resolution for an investigation of the canal. The Republican Senators purpose, or did purpose when adjournment was reached on Friday, not to allow any bill to be passed by the Senate until that resolution is adopted.

The Republicans are carefully misrepresenting the position of the Democrats in the matter. The Democrats are willing that there shall be an investigation of the management of the canal, but they insist that they shall have a hand in it. The LAVERGNE resolution provides for an investigation by "the Senate Committee on Canals or any sub-committee thereof, to be appointed as the committee may direct, and to include at least one of the minority members." Very likely that one Democrat would be included.

If there is to be an investigation, let it be an honest and a fair one, and not merely the old Republican humbug. The State is tired of paying for the expenses of Senate investigating committees that, after an infinite deal of pother and prying, are obliged to confess that their search for campaign material has been fruitless. The management of the canal is much more than a matter of local politics. It concerns the whole State. Both branches of the Legislature should be represented in any investigation of the canal.

If the Republicans really desire an investigation, they have only to consent to the appointment of a joint committee. The Democrats would be fools to allow a Republican committee to spend the rest of the year in gathering title for the purpose of publishing a series of lies for use in 1892. We don't believe that there is anything in the present management of the canal which requires investigation, but if there is, the report of a partisan committee could not be depended upon.

Issues Which Must Be Kept in Sight.
The Hon. BERTON MCMELEN of Tennessee is a candidate for Speaker of the next House of Representatives, and his platform is sensible and sound:
"Undoubtedly Republicans would be glad to admit to itself and to the people that they were the cause of the tariff question, but the issue which Democrats will not allow to be lost sight of are the Bismarck, the tariff question, and the attempt to convert the Government into a party machine. These are the issues which will be heard from in addition to the tariff and silver questions. The Republicans have made their bed of that material."

The \$1,000,000,000, the gag rule, and the Force bill are issues against which the Republicans would be powerless. The silver question is yet a matter of sections rather than of the whole country. The tariff question, in the form of a square fight between protection and free trade, is the main hope of the Republicans. Their chance is found in the prospect of making the country forget the folly, the waste, and the revolutionary policy of the Fifty-first Congress in the larger folly and the economic revolution threatened by the free trade irreconcilables. They depend upon the Democratic party to save them from the penalty of their misgovernment.

If the Democracy is prudent or fortunate, it will follow conservative and judicious men like Senator McMELEN, and keep the cranks in straitjackets.

A Remark About Horace Greeley.

The School, a very creditable weekly paper devoted to the interests of the public schools, thinks that a remark made by Mr. Dana at the recent Tribune jubilee is not inconsistent with the position of THE SUN toward public education and its proper limits. Speaking of HORACE GREELEY on that occasion, Mr. Dana used these words:

"The worst school that a man can be sent to, and the worst of all it is for a man of genius to be called a self-educator. There is no greater misfortune for a man of extraordinary talents than to be self-educator, because he has of necessity a very poor schoolmaster."

This opinion seems to the School to be directly contrary to the opinion of THE SUN, which teaches "that the public has no business to furnish education beyond the merest rudiments." If a man who is obliged to educate himself has a very poor schoolmaster, "the State," this is the earnest friend and advocate of the public schools, is not far out of the way in providing a liberal education for all its children, according to their capacity, and THE SUN should forthwith square its views with those of Mr. Dana.

The squaring, however, has been done already. There is no conflict between the opinions of THE SUN and the remark quoted by the School. Because a man of genius who is obliged to educate himself suffers from misfortune is no reason why the State should become his schoolmaster. If it were, the State ought to save all its citizens from all misfortune due to poverty; for properly the State should make a distinction between men of genius and those who have less natural ability, and between different kinds of misfortune. If the State should give people a complete scholastic education because they cannot afford to get it for themselves, it should train them for every trade and every profession into which they desire to enter. It should furnish them with the tools and implements necessary for their use, and it should provide them with sufficient cash capital on which to make a start in their careers.

The public school system was not established and is not kept up as a charitable remedy for any misfortune of the poor. Its object is simply the welfare and safety of the State, which suffers under a grave danger if its citizens are illiterate. A popular government cannot afford to have its citizens so far ignorant; and, as a great part of them are unable or unwilling to pay directly for the education of their children, it must provide free schools from the fund made up by general taxation, and so it provides police, for its own protection, even if it has to compel children to go to the schools. To ward off this danger from the State, the State must carry the instruction no further than the rudimentary branches of education—reading, writing, elementary arithmetic, geography, and some history. Neither can it properly and justly go any further at the expense of all its people. It has performed its whole legitimate function in preventing the evils of illiteracy. If it does more, it provides education for the few only while everybody is taxed for the instruction, and it outrages the religious sentiment which reasonably objects to sec-

ular education so far advanced and so long continued. It is furnishing a luxury when it should be providing only a necessity of its own healthful existence.

In undertaking to give this more complete education the State also, as a matter of fact, enters a field which is already and completely cultivated by private enterprise. All colleges are free in chief part. The price paid for tuition at them meets only a small fraction of even their cash expenditures for instruction, to say nothing of the interest on the capital invested in their plant. They also all provide education entirely without charge to deserving students unable to pay for it. Here in New York no boy would be prevented from going to college because he could not pay the fees, even if the college supported at the cost of the people were abolished. If he were a good student, the private college would be glad to take him without charge, as they take many already, and he would in no wise suffer because of the distinction between him and the students who pay tuition fees. Free scholarships are even made the prizes awarded to distinguished ability. They are conferred as an honor and are sought for as an honor. Hence the State throws away its money in maintaining a free college for an object of a few young men, and at the same time it violates a sound and necessary principle.

HORACE GREELEY, moreover, would have suffered from the misfortune of self-education even if there had been a score of free colleges open to him. He could not have gone to any one of them, for after picking up such instruction as he could get by intermittent attendance on the district school, he had to go to work to earn his living. He could not afford the luxury of four years at college, and therefore he set himself to learn the printer's trade. He was too proud and too honest to become an object of charity or a burden on his parents, struggling to keep the wolf from the door; for the great cost of pursuing a collegiate education is not the mere price of the tuition, but the expense of maintenance during the years devoted to study. Many boys in circumstances like HORACE GREELEY's earn enough by teaching during a part of the year to support themselves in college during the rest of the time; but he could not afford even that much withdrawal from continuous labor, and he would not accept the offer of some of his richer neighbors to support him while at college. He felt it to be necessary for him to learn a trade, and a chance to go into a printing office occurring, he improved it. He was also a boy of a dignity too high to have done as some New Hampshire youth are doing to get a collegiate education. He would not have paid his way by tips obtained as a waiter in a summer hotel; and therefore he saved what is far more valuable than anything a college can impart—his self-respect. Genius or not, HORACE GREELEY would probably have cut a poor figure in the world if he had made such a sacrifice to save himself from the misfortune of self-education, grievous as that misfortune is. He would have wasted and lowered the best qualities of his character.

We trust, therefore, that our much esteemed School friend will now see the consistency of the remark it quotes with the opinions and principles held and proclaimed by THE SUN.

Our Splendid New Cruisers.

It is evident that Secretary TRACY has given the British naval authorities something of a fright by his bold assertions about the powers of our newest war vessels. Either the Great Britain has worried over the possibilities of the French navy, and only within the last few months has it found a fresh source of anxiety in our country.

We now and some of the experts concerning the Barreux with the New York, and concluding that the latter is the more effective vessel, while the triple-screw cruiser No. 12, bearing the ominous nickname of the Pirate till duly christened, is a special source of alarm. That she will outrun the Blake is thought by some to be certain; and the only open question is whether she could catch the City of Paris and the Teutonic.

So remarkable have been the trial trips of vessels like the Charleston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Newark, and Boston, that the British naval authorities have been forced to admit that the new vessels of the United States are a formidable force.

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temptation of man. CHAMBER of Alexander's back had reflect with shame "of what nature she is." The view was that a woman is necessarily a temptress because she is a woman; and that accordingly she ought to keep out of sight as far as possible.

That is more consistent than merely to forbid women to wear lights in any public place. If it is immoral and indecent for them to show their legs, they ought not to show any part of themselves. They ought not to attract the gaze and the admiration of men anywhere, under any circumstances, or by any means. If they are beautiful, they ought all the more to hide their features. Moreover, lights are not necessarily a provocative costume. A fully draped woman may make a far more alluring exposure of herself than a ballet dancer does. If she is immodest at heart, long dresses will not prevent the display of her shamelessness, but rather assist it.

Therefore the Minnesota bill is not a sufficient measure of prohibition. It will not prevent the mischief. A more effective way would be to shut women up and only let them out after dark and so clothed as to hide every attractive feature. Even then, as we fear, they would all the more desire to get out. The Minnesota bill is not a sufficient method of exorcising the away of their beauty over the hearts of men.

The Test of Constitutional Amendments.

There is a simple consideration which should be applied to every proposition for a constitutional amendment:

Has there been a demand on the part of a large number of citizens that such a proposition should be submitted to the people by the Legislature?

The fundamental law is not to be lightly altered. Moreover, experience has made it certain that it is very difficult to induce the people to accept amendments to the Constitution.

It is evident that, as a rule, the zeal of Legislatures for tinkering the State Constitution is not the desire of the people to have their constitutions changed. It is, therefore, a mere waste of time and money to endeavor to force upon the people amendments in which they have shown little or no interest, and that are sure to be rejected.

There seems to be a curious notion among sundry reformers that it is a convenient method of stimulating public discussion of a proposition by putting that proposition in the form of an amendment to the Constitution. It is an abuse of the machinery for changing the Constitution to use it for such a purpose.

Applying the test we have suggested to the proposed constitutional amendments for lengthening the term of members of the Legislature and State officers, and for the separation of county, city, town, and village elections from legislative, State, and national elections, what would be the result? Is there any evidence that any considerable body of the citizens of this State want this lengthening of terms and this separation of elections?

There can be but one answer to that question. There is no such evidence. Until it is produced, discussion of the important changes proposed in these amendments is premature and unnecessary; and the submission of these amendments to the people will be without sufficient grounds.

REGULARS IN MILITIA CAMP.

The Year's Inspection and the Policy of Joint Exercises and Manoeuvres.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The summer's work of inspecting and instructing State troops has already begun for army officers. Lieut. J. B. Ewing, Fourth Cavalry, and Lieut. E. T. Terrell, Eleventh Infantry, being ordered to visit the Georgia encampment, to be held at Savannah next week. In addition, Lieut. C. B. Battelle is to proceed to Atlanta and report to the Governor for temporary duty relating to the militia.

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inspection may be slight, and the necessity of taking back objectionable persons will be avoided, and there will be no danger of suffering the severe penalties provided for the violation of the law.

A reporter who has interviewed Mr. CARL SCHURZ on the subject of the ocean passenger traffic reports him as saying:

"I am of the opinion that the yet build ship, that can make the run to Liverpool in three days. It is not at all improbable. And in fact I expect to see it before I die if we keep on improving at the rate we are going in the construction of ships. In the last three years we would have been ridiculed if we predicted that ships would cross the Atlantic as they are doing now in six days and three hours. Our state of mind has changed. It is not so long ago that we regarded it as a miracle that a ship could cross the Atlantic in four days, and, as the rate of advancement in shipbuilding continues, in six, twenty years from the present time, we might cross in three days."

What nonsense! If Mr. CARL SCHURZ's method of computing future progress from past achievement is good, he can safely prophesy that in forty years from now the time to Liverpool will be reduced to six hours and thirty minutes.

In January last a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies gave notice of his intention to ask the King's Ministers to furnish the Chamber with information concerning Italian immigration to the United States. Signor Bonomi, the Minister of the Interior, has since then been busy in endeavoring to furnish the Chamber with the information requested.

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THE CANDIDATE AND THE SECRETARY.

New Orleans, April 19.—Outspoken Blaine advocates the not less pleasant than the supporters of Harrison with the favorable progress of the latter's tour for delegates for his reelection. Indeed, it is questionable who rejoices most over the reports showing the President's aptness at speechmaking and the apparent prospect of delegates favorable to him, the Harrison men, who mainly are beneficiaries of his Administration, or the Blaine men, who are from the ranks everywhere.

Harrison men rejoice because, as they argue, he is the coming favorite. Blaine men rejoice because of the chance of a favorable result in the election. Harrison men, who are from the ranks everywhere, are the coming favorite. Blaine men rejoice because of the chance of a favorable result in the election.

Republican National Committee member of Ohio is not less outspoken: "Blaine is the only candidate we can win with, and he is the only one that can hold the party together or bring it out. Never before was Blaine so strong with Republicans. In fact, it is the first time the party has really been for his nomination. He is the only one that can hold the party together or bring it out. Never before was Blaine so strong with Republicans. In fact, it is the first time the party has really been for his nomination.

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